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Security Council

LETTER DATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the repeated Iranian acts of provocation and aggression along Iraq's borders.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-74337 (E) 170996 170996

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Annex

Letter dated 11 September 1996 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to refer to my letter of 27 August 1996 concerning the violations being committed by the Iranian armed forces against the territory of the Republic of Iraq (S/1996/707, annex) and to inform you that Iranian acts of provocation against the security and territorial integrity of Iraq have been continuing, as set forth hereunder.

1. On 25 July 1996 the Iranian armed forces established a control point on the road running parallel to the border with Iraq near the Arafat post and the market place in the Badrah district. They stationed a number of soldiers there and erected a wire barrier inside Iraqi territory.

2. On 4 September 1996, as the United Arab Emirates tug Eagle was opposite the inspection point at Fa's al-Bayshah and heading for the port of Mutlayah, two armed Iranians managed to board it. They proceeded to fire a number of rounds, injuring the tug's Indian watchman. He was taken to Abadan hospital while the tug proceeded on its way to the port in question.

3. At various times, Iranian maritime patrols with personnel armed with Kalashnikov and GC assault rifles have intercepted and searched vessels entering and leaving the Shatt al-Arab. These patrols are based at:

(a) Hajj Salbukh Island, where there are eight small aluminium boats with 48-horsepower Yamaha motors, four of them grey and the others red and blue;

(b) The Abadan area, where there are four boats with 48-horsepower Yamaha motors, two of them made of aluminium and two of yellow fibreglass;

(c) Khosrow Abad, where there are four blue fibreglass boats with 200-horsepower Yamaha motors.

These acts of provocation and aggression represent a grave breach of the ceasefire in force between the two countries and are a flagrant violation of Iraq's territorial integrity and the principles of good-neighbourliness and friendly relations between States. They confirm the fact that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is persisting in its policy of defying such principles and that it lacks the desire to see security and stability established in the region.

The Government of Iraq protests anew against such acts of provocation. It urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to desist from this practice and calls upon it to abide by the Tehran agreement signed by the two countries in 1991, particularly as it relates to their agreement to refrain from mounting patrols in the Shatt al-Arab. It holds Iran fully responsible for the consequences of these acts of aggression, and it affirms Iraq's entitlement to seek compensation for the damage arising therefrom and its legitimate and lawful

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